

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON
-----092402 040135Z /62

P R 032232Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S DEATH SENTENCE

REF: (A) LONDON 04790; (B) STATE 80113

1. BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMED DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT BRITISH
AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD DELIVERED PRIME MINISTER
CALLAGHAN'S APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY TO GENERAL ZIA ON MARCH 29.
ZIA REPORTEDLY WENT OVER FAMILIAR GROUND ON THE LAHORE
HIGH COURT PROCEEDINGS AND HIS INABILITY TO INTERVENE IN
THE JUDICIAL PROCESS.

2. ZIA OUTLINED TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR THE ANTICIPATED
TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER HEARINGS ON THE BHUTTO CASE. HE
EXPECTS THAT THE SUPREME COURT HEARING ON BHUTTO'S APPEAL
WOULD TAKE QUOTE RATHER LONGER THAN SIX WEEKS UNQUOTE AND
THAT THE COURT WOULD NEED ANOTHER MONTH TO MAKE ITS DECI-
SION. IF THE HIGH COURT JUDGMENT IS UPHELD, SEVEN DAYS
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WOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THE FILING OF AN APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY.
THE PERIOD FOR CONSIDERATION OF CLEMENCY IS INDEFINITE.
ZIA INDICATED THAT A CLEMENCY DECISION WOULD REST SQUARELY
WITH HIM.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ASSURED BRITISH EMBASSY THAT WE
WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH AS DEVELOPMENTS IN BHUTTO CASE

UNFOLD. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE085417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JACOON:DAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780144-0372
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780498/aaaadfrm.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: acc909b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 4790, 78 STATE 80113
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3089764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO'S DEATH SENTENCE
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PK, UK, (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/acc909b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014